

## Tdap School Requirement Frequently Asked Questions

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### What is Tdap?

Tdap is a vaccine that can protect teens and adults against tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis (whooping cough). There are two different Tdap vaccines:

Vaccine	Who is the vaccine licensed for?
Boostrix	10-18 year olds
Adacel	11-64 year olds

### Who should get Tdap?

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommends Tdap for:

- Children ages 11 & 12 years.
- Adults up to age 64 - *Replace 1 tetanus booster (Td) with 1 dose Tdap*
- Adults who care for or have contact with infants, such as:
  - Post-partum parents
  - Grandparents
  - Child care providers
  - Health-care workers

### What is the Tdap school requirement?

As of July 1, 2007, children who are attending 6<sup>th</sup> grade, and are at least 11 years old, are required to show proof of Tdap vaccination if it has been five years since receiving a tetanus-containing vaccine (DTaP, DT, or Td).

### How will the Tdap requirement be implemented?

Each school year, from 2007-2013, the Tdap requirement will expand to include an additional grade. For example, Tdap will be required for students attending 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade during the 2008-2009 school year and 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade in 2009-2010. The requirement will continue to expand until 2013, when it will include students attending 6<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade.

### What kind of documentation is acceptable?

Department of Health-approved Certificate of Immunization Status (CIS) form (including CIS forms generated from the CHILD Profile Immunization Registry) completed with parent/guardian signature and:

- date of vaccination, or
- medical, religious, or personal exemption.

### What if a student received a tetanus-containing vaccine less than 5 years ago?

This student is considered complete. The requirement applies to 6<sup>th</sup> grade students that received their last tetanus-containing vaccine 5 or more years ago.

### What if you don't know whether a student had a Td vaccine since their school entry booster (DTaP)?

Accept the school entry booster as the student's last tetanus-containing vaccine unless the parent or the CHILD Profile Immunization Registry lists a more recent Td vaccination.

**What if a student is given Tdap 2 years after the last dose of tetanus-containing vaccine?**

The student is considered complete. Tdap given 2-5 years since the last dose of tetanus-containing vaccine is considered valid.

**What if a student entering 6<sup>th</sup> grade is 10 years old?**

This student is considered complete. The requirement applies to 6<sup>th</sup> grade students who are at least 11 years old.

**What if Tdap is given to a 10 year old student?**

This dose of Tdap is valid if the provider gave the child Boostrix. The dose is valid even though the ACIP recommendation and the school requirement are for children aged 11-12 years.

**Should students be ‘tracked’ throughout the school year to make sure they get Tdap after becoming eligible?**

The Department of Health (DOH) does not require schools to track students throughout the school year if they have a valid tetanus-containing vaccination upon admission to school. However, DOH encourages schools to track students that have incomplete immunizations. Students are allowed 30 days after their 11<sup>th</sup> birthday or five years since their last tetanus-containing vaccine to get Tdap.

**What should we tell our computer programmers?**

Computer algorithms need to be reprogrammed to accept Tdap given at age 10 and at least two years since the last tetanus-containing vaccine as a valid dose. The system also needs to change so that students are not out of compliance until age 11 and five years after the last tetanus-containing vaccine.

**Will the Washington School Information Processing Cooperative (WSIPC) reprogram Skyward (WESPAC) to reflect the Tdap school requirement?**

Skyward was modified in 2006 so that Tdap could be entered. Diphtheria-tetanus vaccine is now entered separately from pertussis. DOH will be meeting with WSIPC in early 2007 to discuss changes in school requirements.

**Resources****Washington Department of Health**

**☎ 1-866-397-0337**

**🔗 [www.doh.wa.gov/cfh/immunize/schools.htm](http://www.doh.wa.gov/cfh/immunize/schools.htm)**

This is a direct link to the School & Child Care page. The Tdap implementation plan is located at the top of the page.

**Centers for Disease Control & Prevention*****2006 Childhood and Adolescent Immunization Schedule***

**🔗 [www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5451-Immunizational.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5451-Immunizational.htm)**

When you open the link, scroll down until you see the schedule.